

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 46

Recognizing the benefits of service-learning and expressing support for the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2009

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DODD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BAYH, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the benefits of service-learning and expressing support for the goals of the National Learn and Serve Challenge.

Whereas service-learning is a teaching method that enhances academic learning by integrating classroom content with relevant activities aimed at addressing identified needs in a community or school;

Whereas service-learning has been used both in school and community-based settings as a teaching strategy to enhance learning by building on youth experiences, granting youth a voice in learning, and making instructional goals and objectives more relevant to youth;

Whereas service-learning addresses the dropout epidemic in the United States by making education more “hands-on” and relevant, and has been especially effective in addressing the dropout epidemic with respect to disadvantaged youth;

Whereas service-learning is proven to provide the greatest benefits to disadvantaged and at-risk youth by building self-confidence, which often translates into overall academic and personal success;

Whereas service-learning provides not only meaningful experiences, but improves the quantity and quality of interactions between youth and potential mentors in the community;

Whereas service-learning empowers youth as actively engaged learners, citizens, and contributors to the community;

Whereas youth engaged in service-learning provide critical service to the community by addressing a variety of needs in towns, cities, and States, including needs such as tutoring young children, care of the elderly, community nutrition, disaster relief, environmental stewardship, financial education, and public safety;

Whereas far-reaching and diverse research shows that service-learning enhances the academic, career, cognitive, and civic development of students in kindergarten through 12th grade, and students at institutions of higher education;

Whereas service-learning strengthens and increases the number of partnerships among institutions of higher education, local schools, and communities, which strengthens communities and improves academic learning;

Whereas service-learning programs allow a multitude of skilled and enthusiastic college students to serve in the communities surrounding their colleges;

Whereas service-learning programs engage students in actively addressing and solving pressing community issues and strengthen the ability of nonprofit organizations to meet community needs;

Whereas Learn and Serve America, a program established under subtitle B of title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12521 et seq.), is the only federally funded program dedicated to service-learning and engages more than 1,100,000 youth in service-learning each year;

Whereas Learn and Serve America is a highly cost-effective program, with an average cost of approximately \$25 per participant and leverage of \$1 for every Federal dollar invested;

Whereas the National Learn and Serve Challenge is an annual event that, in 2009, will take place October 5 through October 11; and

Whereas the National Learn and Serve Challenge spotlights the value of service-learning to young people, schools, college campuses, and communities, encourages others to launch service-learning activities, and increases recognition of Learn and Serve America: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
 2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the benefits of service-learning,
 4 which include—

1 (A) enriching and enhancing academic out-
2 comes for youth;

3 (B) engaging youth in positive experiences
4 in the community; and

5 (C) encouraging youth to make more con-
6 structive choices with regards to their lives;

7 (2) encourages schools, school districts, college
8 campuses, community-based organizations, nonprofit
9 organizations, and faith-based organizations to pro-
10 vide youth with more service-learning opportunities;
11 and

12 (3) expresses support for the goals of the Na-
13 tional Learn and Serve Challenge.

○